THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The decision to vacate spectrum for cellular operator is made on a case to case basis after ensuring that the Defence requirements are fully met and are not affected adversely.

**Permission to IAF Pilots to go on deputation**

2599. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow Air Force Pilots to go on deputation in Government run airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what will be the period of deputation indicating whether it will be on a rotational basis;

(d) how many pilots left the Indian Air Force between the period 2002 and 2005 indicating the total strength of pilots/vacancies lying vacant at present; and

(e) whether Government have examined that there would not be any shortage of IAF Pilots after going on deputation to Government Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) and (e) Yes, Sir. The requests received for deputation to various Government organizations including state owned Airlines are considered individually on merits after ensuring that such deputations do not affect the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(d) The number of pilots who have proceeded on deputation to various Government organizations during the years 2002-2005 is 143. The authorized strength of pilots in the Indian Air Force is 3269 and the actual current strength is 3015. The number of posts lying vacant at present is 254.

**Attack on fellow colleagues by soldiers**

2600. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to stress, fatigue, and anxiety, soldiers are turning their guns towards their colleagues;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported during the last 2-3 years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There have been some isolated incidents of Army personnel shooting at fellow soldiers during last three years. The yearwise details are as follows:

| Year | Soldiers running amok |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 06 |
| 2005 | 06 |
| 2006 (as on 01 May 2006) | 02 |

These isolated incidents are due to interaction of various factors including stress. However, it would be wrong to assume that the troops are facing any fatigue.

(d) Rigorous military training from the recruitment stage and inculcation of espirit de corps makes a soldier less vulnerable to stress. Instructions have been issued to sensitise Commanders at all levels to the feelings and needs of the troops. Timely and positive response to their requirements and unit sentiments are encouraged.

**MiG-21 aircrash in Barmer, Rajasthan**

2601. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another MiG-21 aircraft crashed in barmer District of Rajasthan on 21st March, 2006;

(b) the findings of the statutory inquiry held In the crash and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the number of Indian Air Force aircrafts, category-wise, destroyed due to accidents during 2005, and so far during 2006?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.